

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): An amine recovery apparatus comprising:

a ~~[[cabon]]~~ carbon dioxide absorption section configured to bring exhaust gas into vapor-liquid contact with an absorbing solution containing an amine compound and produce decarbonated exhaust gas; ~~[[and]]~~

a plurality of water washing sections configured to bring the decarbonated exhaust gas into vapor-liquid contact with washing water and sequentially recover the amine compound accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas, while the decarbonated exhaust gas passes through the water washing sections in sequence from inlet portions to outlet portions thereof, respectively~~[[,]]~~; and

a plurality of demisters provided at outlets of the carbon dioxide absorption section and the water washing sections, respectively, the plurality of demisters being configured to remove an absorbing solution mist and a washing water mist accompanying the decarbonated exhaust gas,

wherein the water washing sections have liquid reservoirs provided at the inlet portions, respectively, ~~[[and]]~~ the liquid reservoirs reserve the washing water which is transported to the outlet portions of the water washing sections and supplied to the water washing sections, respectively, the water washing sections comprise one in a preceding stage and one in a succeeding stage, and the washing water is withdrawn from the liquid reservoir of the one in the succeeding stage, caused to bypass the demister in the preceding stage, and supplied to the liquid reservoir of the one in the preceding stage.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 5, wherein one of the water washing sections is supplied with regeneration tower refluxed water mixed

with the washing water transported from one of the liquid reservoirs to the outlet portion of one of the water washing sections.

Claims 7-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 5.

Claims 10-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 6.

Claims 14-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The amine recovery apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

a circulating pump configured to transport the washing water from one of the liquid reservoirs to an outlet portion of one of the water washing sections; and

a nozzle configured to supply the washing water to the water washing sections.

Claims 17-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A decarbonation apparatus comprising an absorption tower, wherein the absorption tower has the amine recovery apparatus of claim 16.